

THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING
ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION
REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2001

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I come before this House today to introduce legislation with Congressman DALE KILDEE that will help make the dream of homeownership more accessible to Native American families. Five years ago, my friend and former colleague Congressman Rick Lazio and I worked together to write the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-330). This law has revolutionized Indian housing, and Congressman KILDEE and I are pleased to offer a bipartisan bill that would reauthorize this Act for an additional five years.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress set out on a path during the 104th Congress to support tribal self-determination through the passage of NAHASDA. Prior to 1996, Native Americans were rolled into standard public housing programs that were insufficient to meet the unique needs of Native American tribes. NAHASDA has changed that. For the first time, tribes have been able to assess their own needs and access funds through a single, flexible block grant that allows for innovation and creativity. The block grant program supports new partnerships between the Federal and tribal governments and the private sector, and provides the tools needed for tribal governments to help their members achieve a higher standard of living.

After only a few years of implementation, NAHASDA has proven itself invaluable in this effort. Statistics from the Department of Housing and Urban Development show that today there are nearly 25,000 units of housing under construction or in development, a twelve-fold increase in production since 1996, the last year that tribes were covered by public housing programs.

Although originally a sound bill when it was passed in 1996, it took implementation to show where the law might be improved to more effectively serve its purpose. Reacting accordingly, the Congress further refined the Act with two packages of amendments that were approved with wide bipartisan support in 1998 and 2000.

The difference in Indian housing before NAHASDA and now, particularly with these new amendments in place, is astounding. NAHASDA provides tribal governments and tribally-designated housing entities with the ability and responsibility to strategically plan their own communities' development, focusing on the long-term health of the community without the burden of excessive regulation. Offering the maximum amount of flexibility in the use of housing dollars, while still upholding strict accountability standards, NAHASDA affirms the self-determination of tribes and allows for local problem-solving.

Furthermore, the formula-driven block grant allows tribes to involve private markets and private real estate entities to improve economic conditions in Indian country. Simply put, NAHASDA facilitates a better use of federal dollars to address the needs of Indian communities.

Mr. Speaker, the positive impact NAHASDA has had in the lives of so many Native people is nothing short of remarkable. With its emphasis on self-determination and responsibility at the local level, I hope that the House will act quickly to approve the NAHASDA reauthorization legislation we are introducing today. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House, as well as in the Senate and the Bush administration, to ensure that the American Dream becomes a reality for Native Americans.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AS-
SISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION
REAUTHORIZATION
BILL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) reauthorization bill. The NAHASDA, enacted in 1996, was the first piece of comprehensive housing legislation directed solely to Native American and Alaska Native people. The Act provides basic housing, basic plumbing, basic water infrastructure, heat, and electricity to many of our country's Indian reservations. That is why I support the reauthorization of NAHASDA, an Act that has already gone so far in meeting the housing needs of our First Americans.

The success of NAHASDA is clear. In the five years since NAHASDA's enactment, twenty-five thousand housing units have been constructed or are in development. With severely overcrowded conditions in more than fifty percent of homes in tribal areas, and more than forty percent of homes with serious physical deficiencies, the need has been demonstrated and is slowly being met. While development under NAHASDA is encouraging, it is estimated that there is still an immediate need for 200,000 housing units.

NAHASDA promotes tribal self-determination. Under the Act, tribes administer their funds directly instead of the regional housing organizations administering their funds. The Act also encourages the involvement of private sector entities and promotes innovative financing.

Mr. Speaker, the NAHASDA reauthorization bill will build upon the success of the past five years by providing more housing development on our nation's Indian reservations. Housing is the backbone of economic and community development. It creates jobs and drives tribal economies. It is a basic need that can strengthen progress in other areas like education and health care too.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH for his dedication to Native American issues, and for introducing this bill today. It is my hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this bill for what it is—a renewed commitment to the well-being of the Native American people of this nation.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF TRACY WALRAVEN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions Tracy Walraven has made to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. For the past two years, Tracy has been an invaluable part of my Washington, D.C., office.

But she is moving on to greener pastures now. Tomorrow will be her last day as my executive assistant. Although my staff and I are sad to see Tracy leave, we are glad she has taken a job that should further her incredibly bright career.

Tracy started in my office as an eager intern still in college pursuing her undergraduate degree and wanting to learn as much as possible about the workings and intricacies of Capitol Hill. Her work ethic, intelligence and research skills soon prompted me to offer her a full-time job. She has proven herself a capable, loyal employee.

Tracy has ably assumed a wide variety of responsibilities while serving in my office. She is a dedicated and talented professional who accomplishes every assigned task, no matter how complicated. Throughout all the pressures exerted in such a fast-paced workplace, her sense of humor has been a positive influence on everyone.

I will always have a special place in my heart for Tracy, who, like myself, is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University. Congratulations on your new job, Tracy, and may God bless you in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTISTIC TAL-
ENTS OF BRANDON BARCHFELD

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous artistic ability of a young man from my Congressional District, Brandon Barchfeld of Thomas Jefferson High School. Brandon is the top winner of the 2001 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery.

Brandon's colored pencil piece, entitled, "Alaina," is a beautiful, vibrant depiction of a young lady who is sitting at a desk while taking notes. He has captured a moment out of this individual's life and leaves us wondering what it is for which she appears to be listening so intently. It is a piece of artwork that leaves you mesmerized by the value of a moment in time.

Brandon's artwork was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I hope that he and his family are proud of this accomplishment.

I would also like to recognize all the other participants in this year 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery. I would like to thank these vibrant young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination and creativity. The efforts of these students are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE FOR TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, each May, our nation pauses to recognize the enormous contributions that Pacific Islanders and Americans of Asian descent have made to our country. One week of this month long celebration, the week following Mother's Day, is designated as Taiwanese-American Heritage Week. This observance offers us the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the Taiwanese-American population throughout the United States, and celebrate its rich and unique cultural heritage.

There are currently over 10 million Americans of Asian descent in the United States, 500,000 of whom are Taiwanese Americans. In Wisconsin, our Asian-American population has grown statewide to nearly 89,000, with over 25,000 located in Milwaukee County alone.

The Taiwanese-American community in the United States places strong emphasis on the importance of education. Over 40% of its population consists of college graduates, many with advanced degrees. Americans of Taiwanese descent have made significant contributions in all walks of life, including the arts, sciences, and the humanities. In fact, the 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Dr. Lee Yuan-tse, is a Taiwanese American.

The Taiwanese-American community in Milwaukee has also made important contributions to the quality of life in our community. This week, Milwaukee-area residents are being given the opportunity to learn more about the Taiwanese American people, its food, culture and history at the Taiwanese-American Heritage Week festival sponsored by the Taiwanese-American Associations of Milwaukee & Madison, the Taiwanese Student Association of UW-Madison and the Formosan Association for Public Affairs-Wisconsin. I congratulate these organizations for their efforts to share their rich cultural heritage with our community, and extend my best wishes for a rewarding and successful day of festivities.

And, as we join in celebrating the traditions and culture of the Taiwanese-American community, let us also remember to cherish the diversity that is America, and the spirit of community that binds us together as a nation.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK VETERANS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, most recent data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimate that roughly 23.6 million male and 1.2 million female veterans currently reside in the United States. Of which, 3,400 veterans

served in World War I, 5.9 million in World War II, 4.1 million in the Korean Conflict, 8.1 million during the Vietnam era, 2.2 million during the Persian Gulf War era, and 5.8 million during peacetime.

New York State is home to over 1.4 million veterans, and some 4,600 veterans reside in Cortland County alone. Veterans from across the State of New York will be descending upon the Country Music Park in Truxton, New York on Sunday, May 20th to attend festivities recognizing their service to the American people.

As a Member of Congress representing Cortland County and Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/HUD and Independent Agencies overseeing the funding of all federal veterans benefits and health services, I rise today to recognize the dedication these New York State veterans and their families have shown in service to our nation.

Americans of all ages owe a sincere debt of gratitude to the sacrifice of all veterans who have defended our country and preserved and protected the foundations of liberty and freedom both home and abroad. I anticipate that the event on May 20th will be a fitting tribute to their selfless service.

HONORING THE MUSIC MAN, DR. THOMAS HAMMETT—A REMARKABLE EDUCATOR

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an exceptional teacher in my district—Dr. Thomas Hammett. Dr. Hammett teaches chorus and drama at Lookout Valley High School and is also the Director of Music at Rivermont Presbyterian Church. I think it is particularly fitting to honor Dr. Hammett the same week we are debating H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Dr. Thomas Hammett has continually demonstrated character education in the classroom long before the term was ever coined. Many of his students believe he invented the phrase. Not only does he teach music; he teaches character, morals and how to live life.

He has made a significant difference in the lives of so many of his students. He teaches them that music can break down barriers in a way that nothing else can. It can break down prejudice and indifference and it crosses racial lines. Dr. Hammett is a man of Christ and is never afraid to demonstrate his faith despite the consequences. Without his dedication many of his students wouldn't be where they are today.

I have heard from a number of Dr. Hammett's students and their words tell the story better than I could.

Rebekah Griffiths said,

"Dr. Hammett has made a huge difference in my life and I am a better person because of his example and teachings. I love him like a father and appreciate his listening ear, time and advice more than he will ever know."

Michael Langston states,

"Dr. Hammett has been an outstanding role model for me. He has taken many days out of his personal life to help me succeed in chorus.

I don't know many teachers who would take a single student to All-State auditions and performances."

I am proud to have him teaching in my district. Keep up the good work Dr. Hammett—you are a perfect example of why character education works and a role model for other teachers who dedicate their lives to teaching America's children. I commend you and your wife, Faye, and your four daughters, Charity, Emily, Stephanie and Rosalie.

ATTACKS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP IN THE BALKANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, news reports from Bosnia and Kosovo earlier this month give reason to despair.

First, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, about 30 people were injured and property was damaged during riots in the "Republika Srpska" cities of Trebinje on May 5 and Banja Luka on May 7. Islamic leaders, Bosnian officials and representatives of the international community were attacked during ceremonies to lay the first stones of mosques being rebuilt where mosques destroyed by Serb militants in 1993 once stood.

We remember well, hundreds of mosques were destroyed during the war as part of the genocidal campaign of ethnic cleansing. The apparent purpose was to erase the cultural vestiges of the Bosniac population which was terrorized and forced to flee. It was not uncommon for the local ethnic Serbs subsequently to deny a mosque had ever existed, once the rubble had been cleared away. The famous Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka built in 1583 was blown to bits on May 7, 1993. The ceremony exactly eight years later was the culmination of persistent efforts, including the Helsinki Commission which I co-chair, to get Republika Srpska leaders to permit the reconstruction of destroyed mosques, which they finally did this year.

The riots last week demonstrate the continued intolerance in the region. Moreover, while Bosnian Serb officials have officially condemned the incidents, there are indications that both the Trebinje and Banja Luka events were orchestrated and perhaps linked. In Trebinje, the police force seemed simply to be not adequate. In Banja Luka, though, some believe that the police forces may have been involved in plans to disrupt the ceremonies. Radovan Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader who has been indicted for genocide but remains at large, is alleged to have been responsible.

Meanwhile, in Kosovo on May 6, local Albanians threw stones breaking windows and the doors of the Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Dimitrije in the village of Susica. Damage was done inside, and some cash offering was stolen. This was only the most recent in a wave of attack since the end of the conflict in Kosovo in 1999 in which about one hundred Orthodox churches have been damaged or destroyed. Many of these incidents have been documented by Serbian Orthodox Bishop Artemije in testimony before the Helsinki Commission. Mr. Speaker, there are signs that in